

LOS ANGELES ATARI® COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

**LA-ACE**

NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 Number 7

July 1987

## Happy Fourth of July to ALL LA-ACE Members

### General Meeting

Tuesday July 7th, 7:00 pm

Granada Hills High School  
(in Auditorium)  
10535 Zelzah Ave. Granada Hills

Between Devonshire Street and Chatsworth  
Street on the West side of Zelzah Avenue

### ST Special Interest Group

Tuesday July 21st, 7:00 pm  
Mercury Savings and Loan  
7040 Sepulveda Blvd. Van Nuys  
South of Sherman Way Blvd.

### SEE MAP ON THE BACK!!!

#### Future Meetings:

General  
Aug 4th  
Sept 8th  
Oct 6th

ST Sig  
Aug 18th  
Sept 22nd  
Oct 20th

## Come to the July meeting !!!

You could walk home with a modem.  
That's right one of the door prizes for  
the July meeting is a real live modem  
for your Atari computer. Get to the  
meeting at 7:00pm sharp as you  
never know when we might give away  
the prizes

## Welcome old and new members!!!

I. Hyman Weiland, MD + Family  
Norm Weinress

Don R. & Ivy- Carol Christensen  
Jim & Dorothea White

The July Disk of the Month WITH documentation will be  
available to the first 20 buyers for \$4.00. AND you will also  
receive \$2.00 worth of raffle tickets!!! Rumor has it that  
ST disks have been reduced in price. See Tim Laren at the  
ST-SIG meeting for details.

DOUGLAS KELLEY will be returning to college life in  
September. He has done an excellent job as our secretary,  
but will be relinquishing that position as of September 1. If  
you would like to take over his position until the end of the  
year, please see one of the LA-ACE officers.



## LA-ACE Newsletter

This newsletter is written and printed by members of the Los Angeles Atari Computer Enthusiasts, an association of individuals with a common interest, using and programming Atari Computers. This group is not affiliated with Atari Corporation nor with any other commercially oriented organization. Any logos, trademarks or company names are used either with permission or as an informal method of referring to a product or company.

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinions of LA-ACE.

12 month membership fees: Individual \$20  
Family \$25  
Associate \$6

Individual and family memberships include subscription to this newsletter, membership access to the LA-ACE BBS, and access to the general meetings. Associate membership includes access to LA-ACE BBS ONLY.

The General Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm unless otherwise posted in this newsletter. All other Special Interest Group meetings will be posted in this newsletter.

Advertising rates: Full page \$40.00  
1/2 page \$25.00  
1/4 page \$15.00  
Business card \$5.00

Send check and camera ready copy to the editor.

President Bill Lurie (818)780-1723	Disk Librarians Tim Laren (16bit) (818)366-3817
Vice-President Jon C.A. DeKeles (818)363-5660	Wayne Habberstad (8 bit) (818)341-5270
Treasurer Michele Rose (818)710-9801	Text Librarian Warren Farina (818)893-6913
Secretary Doug Kelley (818)349-5006	Membership Michele Rose (818)710-9801
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BBS SysOp Rich Monosson (818)348-8644(BBS)	Circulation Kam Bansal (818)891-3171
Editor Jo Anne DeKeles (818)363-5660 (818)363-3505(BBS-upload articles in ASCII text format here!)	

# LA-ACE MEETING MINUTES

June 1987  
by Douglas Kelley

This month's meeting saw a larger number of people attending compared to last month, but many of you came in late. We only have a limited time to use the school's facilities, so PLEASE come on time!

Our Vice-President, Jon Dekeles, opened the meeting at 7 PM by reading a long message that he had downloaded from Compuserve. It seems that our Atari is pushing its "game machine" image at those computer shows attended primarily by consumers...but it was also pointed out that Atari stock is doing very well - its price has already tripled - and so are business sales of the ST. As the end of the message said, the balance of this quarter should tell!

Rich Monosson, the Sysop of our BBS, announced that the BBS number will become (818)700-1652 in July. Rich will, I believe, continue to be the Sysop.

After a short discussion about 1200 and 2400 baud modems and their prices, a few of the door prizes were raffled off, in order to give those who come on time first shot at them. That's also incentive to make YOU arrive at the scheduled time!

Next we had a discussion about the LAACE newsletter. We need people to write articles for it! Many newsletters across the country take articles from LAACE and reprint them. Be famous across the country! Remember that we also give CASH for the best newsletter articles each month.

Bill Lurie, President, announced that LAACE will be selling tickets to the Atari Fair in September for \$3. Entry will be at least \$5 at the door. Tickets will be made available at the next meeting.

Jon then did a demo on the various types of BASIC languages available for the 8-bit computers, and talked about some of their differences. He also showed us a few tricks and hints on inputting and storing data. Topic for next month will be a discussion on the various ways to get input to the computer.

The rest of meeting was handed over to Mary McCullough from Disk Publications, Inc. She showed off "The New Aladdin Collection", a magazine to be read on your computer. The issues come bimonthly, and each issue has about 20 articles, not all of them computer related. The issues we were shown had a comic section, two games, a food section, advertisements, editorials, and some interactive articles. The disks are not copy protected. There is a subscription for 8 bit computers (6 disk sides) and 16 bit computers (2 double-sided disks), both \$79.95 for 6 issues.



Lastly, we had our raffle, then the meeting was adjourned. Door prizes donated were:

Beach Head II from ComSoft  
New Technology Coloring Book and Forbidden Quest from Logical Choice  
A free subscription to Aladdin from Disk Publications, Inc.  
3 Compuserve intro pacs and one Habawriter from Bill Lurie.

## THE ATARI PC: THE FIRST IBM PC- COMPATIBLE WITH BUILT-IN EGA

CHICAGO, May 30, 1987 -- The Atari PC is the first IBM PC compatible with built-in EGA (enhanced graphics adapter).

The new computer has more power and features than the IBM PC, said Sam Tramiel, president of Atari. Designed around the Intel 8088 chip, the switchable system performs at either 4.77 or 8.0 megahertz and has 512 kilobytes of memory, expandable on the motherboard to 640 kilobytes.

It is the first IBM PC-compatible product that includes support for the EGA graphics mode as a standard feature. Other graphics modes supported by the custom-designed graphics chip are CGA, IBM monochrome and the Hercules graphics card. The Atari PC has built in a Centronics parallel port for printers and an RS232 serial port for modems and serial printers.

It will be sold with a detachable IBM-style keypad, a mouse and mouse port and will be bundled with the GEM desktop from Digital Research.

The Atari PC will be sold through mass merchants and computer specialty stores. The Atari PC system including a computer, disk drive and monochrome monitor is priced at \$699. The computer and disk drive will sell for \$499.

Atari Corporation is a leading manufacturer and marketer of personal computers, video game systems, a broad line of peripherals and a growing library of computer and video game software. Atari Corporation is located at 196 Borregas Ave., Sunnyvale, CA

## What's New in the 16-bit Public Domain by Ray Maynard

### ----- DCOPY20 -----

DCOPY is a multipurpose file maintenance utility that should meet almost anyone's needs. It is a shareware product (meaning that you are free to distribute it and anyone who finds it useful is requested to send the author a donation) by Ralph Walden of Eugene ACE. Some of the earlier versions of DCOPY seemed to have (or create) some problems but this version has worked very well.

DCOPY is completely menu driven and is thus very easy to use. Each menu option is usually self-explanatory. However, the proper use of some of the parameters is somewhat obscure and a thorough reading of the disk-resident documentation that accompanies the program is mandatory. The selections available on the DCOPY menu are:

A: archive files. This option allows you to add files to an xxx.ARC (ARChive) file. This is the same feature offered by the well-known ARC.TTP utility.

C: copies single or multiple files. "Wild characters" are allowed.

D: displays or prints a disk directory or a list of the files in a specific folder. The output can optionally be printed.

E: erases (deletes) files. Wild characters are allowed.

F: format a disk. You can format disks with either 9 or 10 sectors per track, 80, 81, or 82 tracks per disk, single or double sided, and David Small's "twisted" format.

H: "hides" files. The names of the files you select will not be displayed in directory lists or in desktop windows.

I: extracts files from a xxx.ARC file. Each file found is listed and you are given the option to extract that file or skip it. The "X" selection also extracts ARC files but without the option of skipping files.

J: provides two functions. First, it can list or print the names of all files in all folders. Second, it can search through all folders for a specific file name.

K: deletes a folder and all files in it.

L: "locks" files. Locking a file prevents erasing or overwriting it until it is "unlocked".



M: moves file by copying the file(s) specified to the destination and then deleting the source. This is useful for moving files from one folder or disk to another.

N: creates a new folder.

Q: stands for "Quit" which, obviously, exits DCOPY.

R: renames a file.

S: displays the amount of space left on a disk.

T: either displays or converts a file. Automatically converts all control characters to spaces, word-wraps the text to a specified right margin. CP/M files will have a line-feed character added after the carriage-return character as needed by TOS; 8-bit text files have their 155 decimal (EOL) ATASCII characters converted to a CR-LF, etc. Once the file has been converted, a secondary menu allows you to quickly display the next, previous, first, or last screenful of text. You can also locate and display the first screenful that contains a specified character string. Another option allows you to save the converted file to disk or to print it.

^T (control-T): sets the right margin used for word-wrapping by the "T" option.

U: "unlock" one or more files.

V: lists the names of files in one or more xxx.ARC files.

W: change the working drive and/or folder.

X: extract files from xxx.ARC files. This functions similarly to the ARCX.TTP utility.

Y: toggles the disk write verify flag.

Z: duplicates a 9 or 10-sector, 80, 81, or 82 track, single or double sided disk using either one or two drives.

1: converts 16-bit ASCII text files to 8-bit ATASCII format.

2: converts 8-bit ATASCII files to 16-bit ASCII files.

3: converts an ST WRITER file into a standard ASCII text file.

4: converts the carriage-return characters in an ST WRITER file into 8-bit ATASCII EOL characters. removes the ST WRITER "Do Run Run" file header and ignores text-formatting directive lines.

5: removes most of the carriage-return characters from a text file, allowing you to reformat it as desired with the

TYPE command, or to load it into ST WRITER.

There is a secondary menu (presumably used because there isn't any room for more selections in the main menu) providing the following options. Note that each is a two-character command; a "-" followed by a character:

-A: append one file onto the end of another.

-D: delete one or more files from a xxx.ARC file.

-F: "freshen" files in a xxx.ARC file. This adds or replaces files in a xxx.ARC file ONLY if they are newer than ones already in the xxx.ARC file.

-G: changes the colors to green letters on a black background.

-H: does a hex and ASCII dump of a file.

-N: restores the screen colors to be the same as when DCOPY was initiated.

-O: turn off the screen until you press a key.

-T: tests the integrity of the files in a xxx.ARC file.

-U: updates the files in a xxx.ARC file; similar to the -F command.

-W: gives you white letters on a black background.

I have found DCOPY to be very useful. Most disk operations are performed much faster using DCOPY than using the mouse and desktop. DCOPY was downloaded from the AtariBase BBS.

## ----- ELVERT Version 0.06 -----

ELVERT is a file conversion utility written (and copyrighted) by Dan Rhea, CompuServe SYSOP of the ATARI16 forum. Although copyrighted, Dan allows its free distribution and use but ELVERT must not be sold.

ELVERT provides many of the conversion capabilities of DCOPY plus a few more. The Menu selections provided are:

A: eliminate ASCII (16-bit) end-of-lines (CR-LF pairs);

B: eliminate ATASCII (8-bit) end-of-lines (155 decimal);

C: add ASCII end-of-lines;

D: add ATASCII end-of-lines

E: drop high bits set in characters (typically in ATASCII inverse characters);

F: monitor all input/output (slow but interesting);

G: proceed to perform the selected option(s);

H: get on-line help;



Display files:  
cat file ...

The cat command displays the listed files on the screen. Useful for displaying any title screen information. Wildcards are accepted.

Change directory:  
cd dir

The cd command changes the default directory to either a disk drive or a subdirectory (folder).

cd b: ; changes default drive to b:  
cd b:\auto ; change to drive b:, folder auto

The cd command is useful if when running programs you don't want to list the complete filename (drive and directory) and if the program being executed expects to find certain files (data files) in the default directory.

Display text:  
echo string  
echo -n string

The echo command displays the "string" (list of words) on the screen followed by a carriage return. If the -n option is used, the carriage return is not printed. The echo command is useful for displaying what is happening at different points of the boot process.

As an example, I use the following:

echo -n The time is  
c:\bin\date.prg; display the current time

This will display:  
The time is Sat Jan 24 1987 12:24pm

The "special" commands used by STARTUP are as follows:

Use medium or low resolution:  
res medium  
res low

The res command will set a color system to medium resolution or low resolution during the boot process. On monochrome systems this command has no effect.

Turn the cursor on or off:  
cursor on  
cursor off

The cursor command turns the cursor on or off again. Since TOS doesn't turn on the cursor during the boot, you can now see where the cursor is for entering text.

I: change screen colors;  
J: convert file into 1st\_Word/Word Writer ST format;  
R: reset all options;  
X: exit to desktop.

## ----- DISKEDIT -----

DISKEDIT is a disk sector editor/dumper. It displays sectors in both ASCII text and hex numbers.

## ----- LOOKSE -----

LOOKSE is a program that displays the 16-bit internal value of each key that you press. The value is shown in both hex and decimal formats. This program can also be used to check if your keyboard has the "SE" bug which existed in some early

ST keyboard (mine has the @\$% ^ @# bug!).

## ----- STARTUP Version 1.00 -----

STARTUP.PRG is a Batch Startup program by Murray Levine that executes commands from the file STARTUP.INF upon booting your ST. STARTUP.PRG must be placed in the \AUTO\ folder on the boot drive (usually A). The program first checks for file

STARTUP.INF in the same directory and, if it's not found there, tries the main directory (ex. A:STARTUP.INF). Once you start using STARTUP.PRG, these two files can be the only files needed in the AUTO directory because all other files to

be executed can be located in other drives and folders and can even have parameters passed to them. The order in which files are written to the \AUTO\ folder is no longer important since STARTUP executes commands as they are encountered in

file STARTUP.INF.

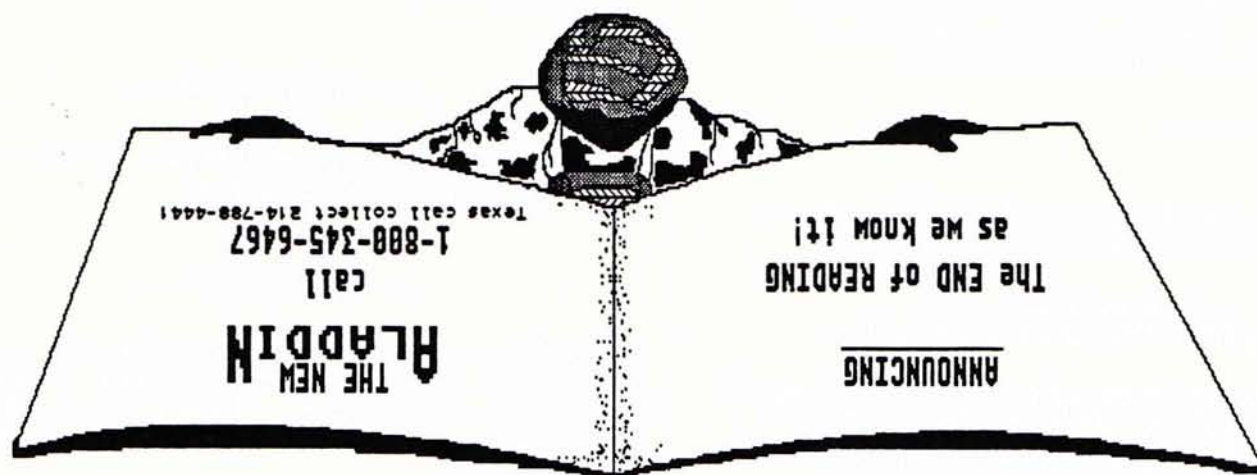
STARTUP.PRG supports a few UNIX-like commands as well as some special commands that are used in the STARTUP.INF file. The commands available are:

Copy Files:  
cp file1 file2 - copy file1 to file2  
cp file1 ... dir - copy file1 and other files to the directory dir

The cp command is useful for copying files to a ramdisk. Wildcards are also accepted.

cp b:\src\\*.c c: ; Copy source files to ramdisk c:

Remove files:  
rm file ...  
The rm command removes the listed files. As with cp, wildcards are also accepted.



DISK PUBLICATIONS 12200 PARK CENTRAL DRIVE, SUITE 310 DALLAS, TX 75251  
Software for Atari 8-bit and ST computers

Turn the keyclick on or off:

keyclick on  
keyclick off

The keyclick command turns off the keyclick if you get annoyed by it while entering input and lets you turn it back on at any time.

The following sample STARTUP.INF file is the one the program author uses during his boot process.

res medium; Use medium res when booting in color  
cursor on; Turn on the cursor

a:\supboot.prg; Supra Hard Disk booting program

d:\rtx\rtxboot.prg; Micro RTX kernal

c:\auto\hdaccel.prg; Hard Disk Accelerator

c:\auto\autotime.prg; Logikhron Clock Card time  
retriever

echo -n The date is

c:\bin1\date.prg; Display the current date and time

e:\degelite\auto\gdos.prg; GDOS 1.1 for Degas Elite

## ----- TOUCH -----

TOUCH is a program that updates the creation date and time of all files that meet the file specification that is given as a command argument. This is used in order to "trigger" the dumping of a file during a backup dump that would ordinarily

not be dumped. TOUCH is most useful for hard disk owners. The ARC file contains both the .PRG file and C source code.

There's a lot more public domain stuff out there...so much that I can't keep up with it. I'll keep trying though, and will try to keep you posted.

Retail Sales (818) 760-0738

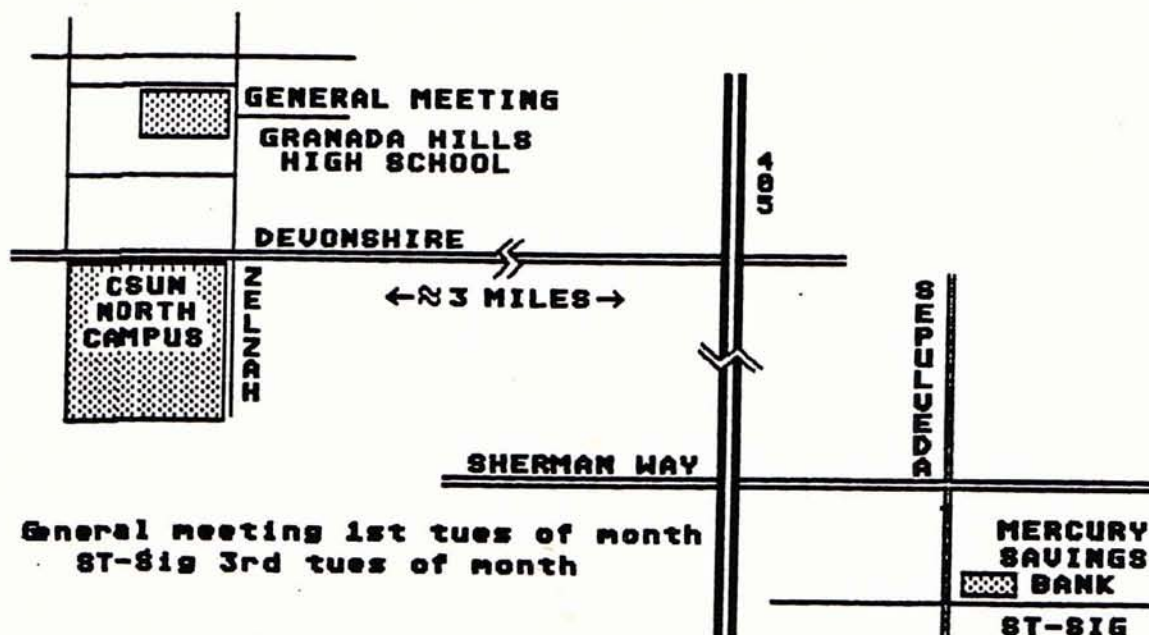
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